

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1958.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

D.H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,

D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.MC. (Retd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for the Borough of Buckingham, the Urban Districts of Bletchley, Linslade and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area Medical Officer for North Bucks. and Divisional School Medical Officer for the North Bucks. Division and Buckingham and Winslow Districts).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

F. Seymour, M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

J.F. Hopkin, A.M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,  
60, High Street,  
NEWPORT PAGNELL.

9th. June, 1959.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the  
Urban District of Newport Pagnell.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the  
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The Birth Rate shows an appreciable rise on the  
previous year but still remains lower than that for the  
rest of the Country.

The Death Rate is higher than the previous year but  
still remains slightly lower than the rate for England  
and Wales as a whole. More than half the deaths were due  
to Heart and Allied Diseases.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was nil which was very  
satisfactory indeed.

In the realm of Infectious Disease an outbreak of  
Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred during the first 3 months  
of the year. In all 22 cases were notified, the large  
majority being of the mild type, and there were no deaths.  
Credit must be given to the General Practitioners for their  
quick diagnosis, isolation and notification of the cases.  
Six of the cases were adults and the balance young school  
children. Investigations, in which your Health Inspector  
and I were helped by Dr. Geffen of the Ministry of Health,  
seemed to indicate that the outbreak originated from a  
"carrier" amongst the school children.

As the result of improved supplies of Poliomyelitis vaccine all children registered for vaccination received 2 doses during the year. They are now starting their 3rd. "booster" dose.

As the result of a notification of "Salmonella Infection", (Food Borne Disease) in a resident in an old people's hostel investigations brought to light several cases of symptomless carriers. In all 23 cases were discovered and placed under treatment. No particular item of food was incriminated and it was apparent that this infection had been present for some time. As the result of treatment all cases cleared up but the original notification died. The investigations demanded much time and painstaking work by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Hopkin, and I would like to record my thanks to him.

I wish to record another year of helpful co-operation with your Clerk Mr. Hall, Mr. Hopkin your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector and their staffs.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health



NEWPORT PAGNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1958

SECTION A.

<u>GENERAL STATISTICS</u>	1957	1958
Area (In Acres) . . .	3,432	3,432
Population	4,370	4,400 (Est.)
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,505	1,532
Rateable Value	£48,011	£50,018
Rate per Pound	21/-	22/6
Product of a 1d rate	£191	£201

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Legitimate (Males)	29	27
" (Females)	26	33
Illegitimate (Males)	NIL	2
" (Females)	2	1
Stillbirths (Females)	1	NIL
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.65	15.0
" " " " " (Bucks.)	16.7	17.3
(England & Wales)	16.1	16.4

DEATHS.

Males . .	19	48
Females	26	76
Death rate per 1,000 population	7.	11.2
" " " " " (Bucks.)	9.7	9.8
Maternal Mortality	NIL	NIL.

# DEATHS (Cont'd)

	1957	1958
Maternal Mortality (England & Wales)	10.55	0.43
Infantile Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births)	17.5	NIL
Infantile Mortality (Bucks)	21.6	16.4
Infantile Mortality (England & Wales)	23.0	22.5

## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	1957			1958		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	1	1	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	4	4	8	9	4	13
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	5	8	7	14	21
Heart Diseases	6	5	11	19	33	52
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1	2	0	2	2
Influenza	0	1	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	3	3	7	6	13
Bronchitis	0	1	1	3	3	6
Digestive Disease	1	0	1	0	1	1
Nephritis	0	0	0	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of the Prostate	1	0	1	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accidents	0	2	2	1	1	2
Suicide	0	0	0	0	1	1
All other causes	3	3	6	1	8	9

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19 26 45    48 76 124

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## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### 1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton. Samples of water and sewage for chemical analysis were sent, and in the case of sewage to the Analyst, Great Ouse River Board.

#### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These services are administered by the County Council and are controlled in the North Bucks. Area from a station at Bletchley. In Newport Pagnell two ambulances and one sitting case car are maintained, supplemented if necessary by ambulances from other Districts.

#### 3. NURSING FACILITIES.

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

#### 4. CLINICS.

Maternity and Child Welfare: This Clinic which is held at the Congregational School on the 1st and 3rd. Wednesdays of each month, is attended by a Medical Officer, Health Visitor, District Nurse and of course members of the Voluntary Committee. I should like to pay tribute to these ladies of the Voluntary Committee who give up their spare time to this work. During the year 645 children attended this Clinic.



## 5. HOME HELP SERVICE

This service, administered by the County Council, has done very good work since its inception. During the year 34 cases were assisted.

## 6. ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Organised by the Regional Hospital Board. This Clinic meets fortnightly on a Friday.

## 7. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have served this area:-

Northampton General Hospital.  
Bedford County Hospital.  
Royal Bucks. Hospital, Aylesbury.  
Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury.  
Harborough Road Isolation Hospital.  
Renny Lodge Hospital.  
Westbury Maternity Home.  
Creaton Sanatorium.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply source from Caldecote was maintained for the purpose of public supply during seven months of the year. During the five Summer months of the year the equipment of Caldecote pumping station was converted for the purpose of Swinning Pool water treatment.

During the year it was found that parts of the pumping equipment at the Ash Hill pumping station were faulty and inefficient. Some portions of this plant had been operating since 1887 when the station was first constructed. Following several serious breakdowns in both the pumping equipment and the diesel engine (Blackstone horizontal single cylinder) it was decided to remove this plant and install two electrical pumps with automatic control. The pumping station is now unmanned and requires only a daily visit for the purpose of chlorine control and other maintenance duties.

During the year a quantity of 32 million gallons were taken from the Bucks. Water Board. Of this quantity 24 million gallons were taken during the six months ending 30th. September, whilst the Caldecote works was being used for Swimming Pool purposes and the Ash Hill works were partly inoperative due to breakdown or replacement of the equipment. The Council's sources were able to produce 27 million gallons.

The Ash Hill pumps are rated at 180,000 gallons per day and since placing them in commission it has been necessary only to draw the agreed minimum quantity (37,500 gallons per day) from the Board. Subject to the quantity of water in the Ash Hill well remaining abundant it is expected that this arrangement will continue.

The Council can be pleased with their water supply undertaking in that it has an available daily quantity of over 300,000 gallons and the demand is an average of 160,000 gallons. The high level storage capacity at Ash Hill is 290,000 gallons.

The Cost of the new pumping equipment including new chlorine injector plant, recording gear and improvements to the station was £1941 - 16 - 8.



Examinations of the Council's supplies were made from a chemical point of view:-

Source	<u>ASH HILL SUPPLY</u>
Appearance	Clear and bright
pH Value	7.1
Colour	less than 5
Turbidity	1
(results in parts per million)	
Ammonia Nitrogen	0.002
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.050
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	10.9
O <sub>2</sub> absorbed from permanganate (3 hours at 37° C.)	0.44
Free CO <sub>2</sub>	35
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	285
Carbonate Hardness	285
Non-Carbonate Hardness	235
Total Hardness	520
Total Solids (dried at 180°C.)	710
Calcium, as Ca	189
Magnesium, as Mg	12
Sulphate, as SO <sub>4</sub>	180
Chlorine, as Cl	30
Silica, as SiO <sub>2</sub>	15
Iron, as Fe: Total	0.04
Soluble	--
Fluoride as F	--
Residual Chlorine	Nil

Remarks:- "This is a highly mineralised water but of good organic quality. Attention should, however, be drawn to the high content of nitrate. This reaches the limit recognised as suitable if the water may be used without dilution for the feeding of young infants."

Source:

CALDECOTE SUPPLY.

Appearance	Slightly coloured and opalescent
pH Value	7.8
Colour	15
Turbidity	4.5
(results in parts per million)	
Ammonia Nitrogen	0.010
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.176
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.00
O <sub>2</sub> absorbed from permanganate (3 hours at 37°C.)	2.10
Free CO <sub>2</sub>	3
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	120
Carbonate Hardness	120
Non-Carbonate Hardness	130
Total Hardness	250
Total Solids (dried at 180°C.)	400
Calcium, as Ca	87
Magnesium, as Mg	8
Sulphate, as SO <sub>4</sub>	129
Chlorine, as Cl	32
Silica, as SiO <sub>2</sub>	13
Iron, as Fe: Total	0.12
Soluble	---
Fluoride as F	---
Residual Chlorine	Nil.

Remarks:- "This water shows some signs of organic pollution probably of a vegetable nature. Microscopical examination of the small amount of deposit showed it to consist almost entirely of debris, mainly vegetable but with a little mineral debris also."

From a bacteriological point of view 12 samples of treated water from Ash Hill were found to be very satisfactory and 3 samples of the crude water were found to be unsatisfactory but with no evidence of faecal pollution. Six samples of water from the Caldecote supply and 3 from the Swinney Pool proved to be very satisfactory.

Some concern has been felt during the year owing to the age of some of the Council's mains and services, fractures in these are a frequent occurrence and some wastage of water must be experienced from this cause. Waste detection has proceeded up to the limit of the labour available.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Two samples of effluent from the Sewage Works were submitted for examination and found to be of good quality.

#### Sample of EFFLUENT FROM NEWPORT PAGNELL SEWAGE WORKS.

Treatment: Tanks, filters and humus tanks.

#### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS-

Liquid: Clear, slight brownish      Sediment: small medium brownish.

Odour: slight musty.      Reaction: slight alkaline pH 7.88

#### RESULTS OF ANALYSIS-

Total Solids	--
Solids in suspension (dried at 105°C.)	4.00
"        "        "        (Ash)	--
Chlorides (in terms of Chlorine)	55.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, from free and saline ammonia	0.900
Albuminoid Nitrogen (Wanklyn)	0.600



Nitrous Nitrogen from Nitrites	0.100
Nitric Nitrogen from Nitrates	11.0
Oxygen absorbed in 3 min. from $\frac{N}{80}$ permanganate at 26.7° Cent (Total)	---
" " in 4 hour from $\frac{N}{80}$ permanganate at 26.7° Cent (Total)	3.70
" " in 4 hours from $\frac{N}{80}$ permanganate at 26.7° Cent (Filtrate)	---
Biochemical Oxygen Demand in 5 days at 20°C. (Royal Commission Test)	6.75

Remarks: " Good."

The Council have considered the extension of the sewerage system a further distance along the Wolverton Road and London Road. The Wolverton Road extension will deal with 6 existing properties together with a small number of land plots for individual houses. The London Road proposal will deal with 16 properties at present served by cesspool drainage. It is hoped and expected that these schemes will be undertaken during 1959.

Owing to the abnormally heavy rainfall during the year there has been some concern as to the surface water infiltration into the foul sewage system.

Whilst no flooding of properties occurred during the year several highways ~~were~~ were under water for short periods and the flooding of some domestic ~~property~~ gardens in the Lakes Lane area caused some concern. The Council are considering the question of appointing Consulting Engineers with a view to the preparation of a report on Flood Prevention and the improvement of the town's sewerage system.

### 3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The maintenance of a weekly collection of House Refuse has been continued during the year and this service has been undertaken without any incident of note. The labour shortage experienced in past years has improved considerably and no difficulty has recently been found in recruiting labour for this duty. The Council's refuse tipping area is practically exhausted and an additional area will shortly be required.

#### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING ACT.

During the year the Council have closed one dwelling, 16 dwellings were demolished and 43 were made habitable after informal action by Local Authority.

#### SECTION E.

##### 1. GENERAL

Fifty two cases of nuisances were dealt with during the year by informal action.

The Council are responsible for the street cleansing of the district roads and also this duty is undertaken in respect of the classified highways in the town centre.

##### 2. FACTORIES ACT.

Six contraventions of the Factories Act were dealt with informally during the year.



### 3. ICE CREAM.

Twenty seven premises are registered for the purpose of the sale of ice cream, of these only one is registered for the purpose of ice cream manufacture and this is only used on infrequent occasions such as to cater for week end trade. The premises, equipment and records were maintained to a satisfactory standard.

### 4. SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Only one licenced slaughterhouse exists in the town and during the year no slaughtering took place at this establishment. The majority of home killed meat is delivered in the carcass from Northampton or Bedford.

### 5. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council have retained membership of the North Bucks. Area Rodent Committee, and during the year a total of 474 properties were inspected. Of this number 389 were visits to dwelling house property and the remainder to business, agricultural and local authority premises. 36 properties were found to have some infestation by rats and were treated. Mice were dealt with at 3 properties. Treatment of dwelling house property is a free treatment undertaken by the Council. Sewer inspections were made, and test baiting and maintenance treatment carried out as required by the Ministry of Agriculture.

### 6. UNSOUND FOODS.

Regular inspections of food distributive premises have been maintained and foodstuffs dealt with as required. A number of improvements were carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The following items of food were condemned during the year,

Canned Vegetables	Canned Fruit	Meat & Meat Products.
56	41	611lbs.
	14.	



Canned Milk	Canned Cream	Canned Fish
3	3	22

The Number of food premises in the area are as follows:-

Hotels	Butchers	Public Houses inc. 15 inc. 7 with buffet in Bar	Groceries & Gen Stores. 16
1	4		
Fishmongers	Fruit & Vegetables	Sugar Confectionary	
2	5	8	
Licenced Clubs	Cafes	Bakers & Flour Confectioners	
2	3	4	
Dairies	Chemists	Works Canteens	School Canteens
2	2	1	2
Old Persons Clubs (Unlicenced)	Hospitals	Fruit Hawkers	
1	2	2	
Ice Cream Vehicle Operators	Premises for sale of Ice Cream		
3	22		

# 1. GENERAL

During January, February and March an epidemic of Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred. 22 cases were notified. There was also a sharp outbreak of Measles during June and July when a total of 122 cases were notified.

## 2. NOTIFICATIONS

	1957	1958
Measles	9	122
Whooping Cough	1	NIL
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1
Dysentery	1	1
Salmonella Infection	NIL	24
Anterior Poliomyelitis	NIL	22

## 3. TUBERCULOSIS

One case was transferred into the district. There were no deaths.

## 4. CANCER

This disease accounted for 13 deaths during the year compared with 8 in 1957.

D.H. WALDRON

Medical Officer of Health.